



IPSAWG

Invasive Plant Species Assessment Working Group

January 11, 2006 Meeting at the Turf Center, West Lafayette

Attending:

Ellen Jacquart, Theresa Daly, Glenn Nice, Lee Casebere, Doug Keller, Keith Johnson
Joe Deford (Indiana Crop Improvement Association), Alan Galbreth (Indiana Crop Improvement Association), Mike Cline, Rick Phillabaum

Introductions

Joe Deford (Fields Program Mgr) and Alan Galbreth (Assoc. Director) of Indiana Crop Improvement Association were our guests. ICIA is a 501c3 that was established in 1900 and its main function is seed certification through Purdue University. They also do seed testing for purity and germination and inspect seed fields for seed companies. They have a genetics lab that does trait testing for presence/absence of BT, Roundup transgenic traits. They have one of the largest seed testing labs in the country.

Noxious Weed Seed Free Hay and Mulch Program–

This is a new project initiated last year by ICIA, and represents one of the first such projects east of the Mississippi. They follow the NAWMA standard for noxious weed seed free hay and mulch. They had gotten a number of calls from people looking for weed free hay, mainly people who were going to national parks in the west with their horses. Only certified weed free hay is allowed in these parks. Another customer is Indianapolis Zoo, which needs weed free hay.

“Noxious weed seed free” means the hay or mulch is free of seeds from 67 species of noxious and restricted noxious weeds (www.indianacrop.org has the list of species).

There are a number of invasive species that are not on this list, including reed canary grass. Theoretically, reed canary grass could be hayed while in seed and sold as weed free. It was suggested that they consider adding reed canary grass and crown vetch to the list of prohibited species.

In addition, this list does not include toxic weeds. There will be a separate toxic free program for forage for cattle and horses, though it will not include certification.

So far, no hay producer signed up and one mulch producer has signed up. This response is probably because the customer base has not built up yet. The fact that this program

exists needs to get to the end users – horse riders, public land managers, landscapers, gardeners, etc. Alan will forward a press release to Ellen, and she will forward widely.

Codes of Conduct -

Ellen handed out the draft codes that have been developed to date. These are from **Muscatatuck NWR, IN Chapter of ASLA, and Office of the Indiana State Chemist.** They are quite similar to the general codes developed through the St. Louis meeting, but add specifics for each agency/organization based on their mission and authorities.

Updates from other groups:

DNR - Lee talked about the DNR's progress to date. The DNR Invasive Species Coordination Committee met yesterday to discuss each division's position. The largest concern of the coordination committee was #4 on the draft codes dealing with control of invasives on state land. In general, there are limited resources for doing control on state land and there are many acres to treat. There will need to be language that notes control is based on available resources. More specifically, Doug noted that Division of Fish and Wildlife may not want to eradicate some of the species identified as invasive, specifically autumn olive and sericea lespedeza.

There was discussion regarding DFWs desire to leave autumn olive and sericea lespedeza in place on state lands for the wildlife benefits they provide. The reality is that there are plenty of other invasives to treat on state land and other species may be a higher priority. However, it is disappointing that DFW does not see the harm that these species are doing to natural areas and agree that they should be removed. DFW also had concerns regarding Asian species of lespedeza that have commonly been used for wildlife habitat and the IPSAWG recommendations on those species. Based on the IPSAWG assessment, the only recommendation on those species was that sericea lespedeza not be planted. The other species – *L. bicolor* and *thunbergii*, and *Kummerowia stipulcea* and *striata* - were found to be only potentially invasive and the recommendation was to plant with caution and monitor plantings.

The landholding divisions are meeting 1/20 and Bob Waltz will be presenting the codes concept to that group. The goal is still to have the DNR adopt one set of codes, rather than individual divisions have their own.

Purdue University – Keith reported that he sent the draft codes of conduct with an explanatory cover note to the College of Agriculture Drs. Ray Martyn (Homeland Security), David Petritz (Dir. Of Extension) and Randy Woodson. Initial response seemed relatively positive, but Keith needs to follow up and see what the next steps are.

INLA - Mike Cline reported that he's working on editing the codes for INLA and will try to present at the next INLA and Indpls Landscaping Association meetings. The main concern for the groups he represents are regarding species that might be added in the future with which members may disagree. It is clear that continued involvement in the process is important in order to have feedback on the assessment and recommendation

process. It also needs to be clear that participation in the codes is voluntary, and members can decide to discontinue if they so choose

INDOT – Rick reported that reorganization has kept him from pursuing this. He is now the supervisor for Permit section plus landscaping within Environmental Section of INDOT. When things settle down he will be able to pursue it.

Hoosier NF – Kirk emailed that he wasn't able to pursue so far. At this time, the Forest Supervisor is off the forest and so it is difficult to make progress. He should be back in a month and it should be possible to move forward then.

Updates

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- Gwen White is back with DFW in the LARE program handling aquatic plants money; Doug is handling aquatic invasives in general. About \$600,000/year available for aquatic invasive control through LARE.
- Mike Cline – INLA meeting last week. Mike gave legislative update to them and brought up invasive species and IPSAWG and MIPN. Great attendance for Bob's talk on invasive species. Looking for articles on invasives for INLA newsletter. Fact sheets, IPSAWG new publication could go in. And links to their website.
- Ellen reported receiving a \$8,000 grant from Urban Forests program to develop and print an IPSAWG publication that will present the work of this group – recommendations for each invasive species and alternatives to use instead.
- Taltree Arboretum and Gardens – Ellen was sent a recent newsletter which featured sawtooth oak as a landscaping tree. She will contact them and let them know about IPSAWG and see if they are interested in being involved.
- Glen noted that, contrary to what was reported at the last IPSAWG meeting, Apple of Peru has been reported in Indiana before – it was reported in Deam and in Overlease et al.
- Glen also reports that Overlease et al "Weeds of Indiana" will be published through Purdue University Press – close to being released.
- It was brought up that we need a better IPSAWG email list – Excel spreadsheet will be created and sent out so we are all using the same list.

Next Meeting March 8 at 9 am
Location to be announced